

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-27, and 29-32 remain in the application with claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 27, 29, and 30 having been amended hereby and claims 2 and 28 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Inanaga et al.

Claims 2-4, 13, and 28-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include claim 2 in its entirety. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 7 depends from claim 1.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion of the allowable subject matter in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 27, and 31 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Inanaga et al. in view of Gardner.

Claims 5, 6, 10, 11, and 14 depend from claim 1, which

now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 27 has been amended hereby to include the allowable subject matter of claim 28. Claim 28 has been cancelled. Claim 31 depends from now allowable claim 27.

Therefore, by reason of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 27 to include allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 27, and 31 are patentably distinct over the cited references.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 8, 9, and 12 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Inanaga et al.

Claims 8, 9, and 12 all depend from claim 1, which now includes allowable subject matter and, therefore, claims 8, 9, and 12 are also submitted to be patentably distinct.

Notice is respectfully taken of the allowance of claims 15-26 and 32.

Claim 13 has been indicated as including allowable subject matter and claim 13 has now been placed in independent form.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby to include allowable subject matter and the allowance of claims 15-26 and 32, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Maioli" being clearly legible.

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:gdl